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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,555	03/09/2004	David Annis	1210-001	9623

25215 7590 07/26/2004

DOBRUSIN & THENNISCH PC  
401 S OLD WOODWARD AVE  
SUITE 311  
BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

EXAMINER

ABBOTT, YVONNE RENEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3644

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/796,555

Applicant(s)

ANNIS, DAVID

Examiner

Yvonne R. Abbott

Art Unit

3644

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-8, 12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 9-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Venditti (1,908,939). Venditti shows an aquarium enclosure comprising a container (20) made of glass (page 2, line 96) and defined by one or more walls and a base portion (10), the container having an interior portion adapted to receive and contain a liquid; and a recess formed by dome (21) located on the bottom wall, wherein the recess extends into the interior portion of the container and includes a translucent or transparent surface adapted to transmit light to the interior portion of the container; further comprising a light (15) located in the recess wherein the light suitable for generating a light source for illuminating the interior portion of the container; wherein the recess portion is defined by a translucent or transparent support member (21) and a shelf member defined by socket (16) supported by strap (17) joined therewith.
3. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Venditti. Venditti discloses an aquarium formed such that a recess is in one of the walls, wherein the recess includes a transparent or translucent surface adapted to support a light source and transmit light therethrough; and wherein the wall portions are attached to a

Art Unit: 3644

base to form a container having an interior portion adapted to receive and contain a liquid.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6, 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venditti. Venditti discloses a triangular, transparent, glass aquarium. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the Venditti aquarium of plastic material since aquariums made of plastic are notoriously well known, and it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. With respect to claim 8, although the container of Venditti is shown to be in triangular form, the invention is disclosed as not being limited to such form, and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to change the shape to cylindrical or rectangular wherein there are front, back and two side walls. The claimed four-sided shape and the dimension requirement of a height greater than 2 feet are considered no more than one of numerous configurations a person of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of providing an

Art Unit: 3644

enclosure to contain a particular volume of water, to fit in a particular space, or for aesthetic purposes.

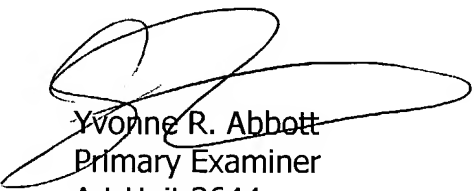
***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 5 and 9-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yvonne R. Abbott whose telephone number is (703)308-2866. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6:00 flex schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Carone can be reached on (703)306-4198. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Yvonne R. Abbott  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3644